

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

Furthermore, I am currently in an NRTC area served by PEGASUS who charges me \$4.50 a month more than Directv for identical services and there is not a darn thing I can do about it. My zip code is not rural but the ONLY area being included in NRTC for miles around. We have access to cable, 60 miles north of NYC and should not be NRTC. I have contacted NRTC, Directv and PEGASUS and none will address this situation. I hope the merger will allow me to purchase my service from the new combined company at the new national rate so that I can get out of the situation that I am in.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL LANARI
2 DEERFIELD PL
BEACON, NY 12508